This booklet explains how the police will use your phone and social media against you. The police hunt people in the streets everyday, but they now have another way to trap you using your data. You can defend yourself by practicing good tech security online and on your phone—the snitch in your pocket.

**What is data?**
Data is all digital information that is produced online and on your phone, and on any 'smart' device. **Every digital action you take produces data.** That includes your texts, your calls, location tracking, social media posts, browsing & searching history, likes, friend requests, public and closed groups, emails, videos, photos, credit/debit card purchases online and in real life, and much more. **Every piece of your data can be accessed by the police.** And if they want it bad enough, they will get it.

**Who is at risk?**
Think about everyone you know who has been charged with a crime. Was their data used against them in their case? The answer is probably yes. **The police have a strong motive to collect information about you.** Even if police do not find anything they can use right away, they can save information for later, to serve their mission of kidnapping and enslaving. **Everyone is at risk of police spying.** Especially those who are already targeted and criminalized all the time.

**Common tactics.**
Police, including NYPD, have started to use reverse location searches, where they access the data from every phone within a specific place and time (like at a protest or the scene of a crime). But they can only get it if you have location tracking on. Make sure to turn it off, on every app too. **Police lurk on social media so they can spy on people.** They make fake pages and profiles to pose as friends, parties, and potential sexual partners. Don't friend people you don't know in real life.

**It's about trust.**
Security is about making sure your data is not accessible to police, but it is also important to be safe in real life. Never discuss illegal activity with anyone who you don't trust with your life.

**Revolutionary Abolitionist Movement**

RAM fights for the abolition of police, prisons, and all forms of state control over communities.

**The gang database.**
NYPD keeps a list of people they've identified as gang members based on being in a "gang location", colors, tattoos, hand signs, or associating with other people on their gang list. **Being on a gang list means if you get arrested, the DA and judge can ask for harsher charges and sentencing.** Also DOC can house you differently if you're locked up. Never post things that could identify you as a gang member, and never admit to gang membership to police.

**Use Signal, and passwords.**
Signal is a messaging app that is 100% encrypted. That means the police can't read your texts or listen to your calls, no matter how hard they try. **Use the app, and keep it password protected.** And tell your friends to get it too, so you can talk safely with them. It's free, with no ads. Also, if you ever need to, you can quickly delete the app, erasing all the data. **Everywhere on your phone, use strong passwords.** Never use fingerprint or eye recognition passwords.